Name: Reginald de los Reyes

School: Lake Elkhorn Middle School

Grade: 8

Poverty is the state of being poor. Those who are poor do not have enough possessions or money to provide for their needs. Poverty is a major problem worldwide. When speaking in public about poverty, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted people around the world to unite and fight poverty as one. This is because poverty is an issue that is present everywhere, crossing gender, racial, and cultural barriers. Because of his dream of a world with no segregation, Dr. King fought against poverty multiple times. He even led a campaign for economic justice to the poor. This campaign was called the Poor People's Campaign. There are a lot of factors that can lead to poverty. Some people are born to a poor family. Others have lost their income due to factors such as natural disasters and disease. Some people become poor due to losing money or being affected by income inequality. Despite these factors, people still try their best to remove poverty from this world and allow the world to live in harmony with as less struggle as possible. Poverty is present in developed and developing countries around the world. Between the economic gaps of the economically prospering countries, there is poverty. No matter how many skyscrapers, malls, or business centers a place has, there will always be poverty hidden within the nooks and crannies of the city. Poverty has proven to be one of man's greatest adversaries. It has existed as long as humanity itself. It still exists today along with mankind's other enemies, racial injustice and war. We have tried countless times to rid our world of poverty, but it still returns to plague cities. Philanthropists and common citizens donate sums of money, items and clothing to the poor. The government allows the poor to pay a smaller amount of taxes due to their

income. Federal unemployment insurance, Medicare, and federal welfare programs help poor households. Social security provides financial assistance to retirees and people who are unable to work. The government also funds homeless shelters for those who lack a home. While the efforts of the government and philanthropists are helping reduce poverty around the world, I have an idea for a solution to make poverty a rare occurrence. I believe my idea can drastically affect the amount of poor people in the world. I would want to solve the problem of poverty because I want everyone to have equal opportunities. Even the poor deserve the same opportunities as those with higher income. My solution is for the government to educate the poor on how to use money wisely. The government should provide impoverished households with a budget and guide them as they spend their money. Classes should be held for poor people to learn to make good choices with their money. This is because marketing techniques have become more deceiving nowadays. Advertisements can lure the poor into making bad decisions with their income. Poor people are susceptible to this because spending money might not be something they do regularly. Therefore, advertisements can sell them something not worth their money. While donating to the poor is a good thing, the effort will be put to waste if they spend their money wrongly. Having money means nothing if you do not know how to spend it. This solution is also useful because the poor with extensive knowledge on money can share this information with others who are poor. This sharing of knowledge can prevent others from becoming impoverished. With help from the government and its citizens, poverty can be completely removed from this world as long as we are all devoted to helping the poor. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "We now have the techniques and resources to get rid of poverty. The real question is whether we have the will."